



### **German Ostpolitik and the Soviet Union, 1970-1975**

---

This project examines the bilateral relationship between West Germany and the Soviet Union in the period between the Moscow treaty and the Helsinki accords. Fink seeks to prove that Bonn's active Ostpolitik towards the USSR established a crucial element in restructuring Cold War Europe, moving from two decades of military and political confrontation to two decades of continental détente and cooperation. In 1970, the FRG, the world's third largest economy, embarked on a complex, controversial policy of accepting the territorial status quo in order to attain short-term concessions while maintaining its long-term goal of German unification. The Soviet Union, menaced by China and the U.S. and weakened by economic debility and huge overseas commitments, succumbed to Bonn's blandishments in order to attain European stability and Western trade and technology. The result was a unique five-year partnership between Brandt and Schmidt, Brezhnev and Gromyko that produced breakthrough agreements in 1975 on diplomacy, economics, and human rights.

**Principal Investigator:**

[Carole Fink](#), *Professor of History*